

Paris. The current used for exciting the Crook's tubes is derived from static machines and the tubes employed are self-regulating ones encased in strong steel-iron lanterns lined on the inside with a thick layer of ebonite. Metallic cylinders, all of the same length, but of varying diameters are used to localize the applications to the areas it is desired to depilate. The length of these localizers is so arranged that when the scalp is applied to the external orifice it is exactly 15 cm. from the anticathode. The areas to be rayed are carefully mapped off on the scalp with ink in such a manner that the same area is not rayed twice. Each patch is given a single exposure of sufficient length to produce fall of the hair without dermatitis. The length of the exposures is determined entirely by means of the radiometer invented by Sabouraud and Noire, pastiles of Bristol paper coated with an emulsion of platino-barium cyanide, which are placed midway between the surface to be rayed and the anticathode. From the beginning of treatment the entire scalp is daily painted with a weak tincture of iodine which insures local protection and prevents infection of healthy parts. If, through failure in the technique, a second exposure becomes necessary, this is only made after the expiration of a month. Since the adoption of radiotherapeutics the length of time required to cure ringworm has been greatly lessened. The average duration of treatment was formerly about twenty-seven months; it now may be as little as six weeks.

Origin and Structure of Moles.—WILFRED S. FOX (*Brit. Jour. of Dermatology*, March, 1906) states, in making concluding remarks on the subject: (1) That moles which show the typical column of nevus cells are epidermal in origin; (2) that there is a rarer variety of soft moles which show us typical nevus-cell arrangement, and whose origin is uncertain, possibly mesoblastic; (3) that the most cases of nevo-melanoma are nevo-carcinoma; (4) that melanomas do arise in the skin entirely apart from moles; (5) that Cohnheim's view of the origin of malignant growths is not borne out by the foregoing observations of the histology of nevo-melanoma; (6) that the pigment appears to be closely connected with the prime cause, by reason of which moles become malignant, whatever that cause may be.

Total Alopecia Following the Application of Cantharides.—P. F. BARTON (*Lancet*, October 24, 1905) reports the case of a young man who presented a bald area the size of a shilling on the back of the head, which was considered to be of trichophytic nature rather than alopecia areata. It was painted with liquor vesicatorius (*Br. Pharm.*) twice in eight days. About eight days after the second application intense oedema of the scalp, face, neck, and upper chest set in. Soon there occurred a universal exanthem and hematuria. In the further course of the disease the hairs of the entire body and the nails fell out. At the end of nine months the nails grew in again, but the hair did not grow in, although the general health was restored.

The Treatment of Staphylococcic and Tuberculous Lesions by the Inoculation of the Corresponding Vaccines.—THOMAS HOUSTON and J. C. RANKIN (*Proceedings Ulster Medical Society*, Belfast, December 5, 1906, reprint) give an extended article on this subject, including the method of preparing the test emulsions of staphylococcus or other similar

microorganisms. The method adopted was that of Wright and Douglas, as described in their several publications. A series of cases of cutaneous diseases (acne, furunculosis, etc.) due to staphylococcus and to tubercle bacilli (lupus, etc.) are given, the results of treatment being in many instances strikingly favorable. The authors express themselves with caution and professional modesty, but the result of several years' experimental work incline them to agree with Wright's estimate of the value of this method, who states that "we have, in the power of raising the antibacterial power with respect to any invading microbe, out of all comparison, the most valuable asset in medicine."

The Blood in Relation to Skin Diseases.—THOMAS HOUSTON and J. C. RANKIN, of Belfast (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, October 6, 1906), give the results of work done by them in which the blood, using Prof. A. E. Wright's methods of examination, gave important indications for treatment. One case, illustrative, may be quoted. The man had suffered for five years from staphylococcic lesions. It was found that his "opsonic" power was low, and that it could be raised by injections of staphylococcic vaccine, and that while his opsonic index was high the lesions always improved. He received seven or eight injections, which almost completely freed him from any cutaneous lesions, except a little persistent eczema on his wrists. Ten days' treatment with sodium lactate caused this to entirely disappear. After inoculations practically all the cases cited rapidly improved, though some relapsed; in a few the failure was obviously due to faulty procedure. The inoculation of the vaccine employed must be neither too large nor too small. Thus, in a case of acne with abscesses, inoculations with from 0.5 c.c. to 1.25 c.c. (used every day or every other day) of vaccine containing 1,200,000,000 dead staphylococci proved to be too large dosage, the curve of the opsonic index not being observed. In lupus if the opsonic index is persistently low the case will not do well with the Finsen light nor with any other treatment. If by carefully regulated inoculations, however, we raise the opsonic power, the improvement is marked. In those dermatoses associated with serous effusions, in which the coagulability of the blood is found diminished, the soluble salts of lime have been rapidly beneficial.

The Perborates in the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin.—HERXHEIMER and IPSEN (*Arch. f. Dermat. u. Syph.*, Band lxxxiii, Heft 1) report their experience with the use of the perborates of zinc, magnesium, and sodium in the treatment of various diseases of the skin. These are new preparations which contain considerable quantities of oxygen, which is slowly set free when in contact with the skin. The zinc perborate was employed in salves and pastes containing from 2 to 25 per cent. of the salt. A large number of cases was treated with these salves and pastes, chiefly eczema in various stages. The authors conclude that the chief indication for the use of the remedy is found in dry eczema with infiltration, it being contra-indicated in all acute forms of the disease, and in the weeping stage of the chronic forms. Trial was made of the magnesium perborate with the view of avoiding the irritation which sometimes followed the use of the zinc salt, but there was but little difference between the action of the two. The perborate of sodium was found too irritating in eczema, but was employed with good effect in